

They understand that children who grow up with an understanding of the land, air and water surrounding them grow into environmentally conscious adults.

These adults are actively involved in efforts to clean, restore and preserve our precious resources.

This month shows children that catching-and-releasing fish, playing with mud, and building a fort beat a video game any day.

I look forward to joining the fun.

**WESLEYAN CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
WINS IT ALL AGAIN**

HON. HOWARD COBLE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the citizens of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we wish to extend our congratulations to the Wesleyan Christian Academy's baseball team for winning its second North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association 3A state championship in three seasons.

Wesleyan Christian Academy defeated Forsyth Country Day School for the title. The team at Wesleyan Christian Academy fought hard to obtain its second state title. The team exhibited exorbitant amounts of determination and teamwork in order to claim the championship title for the second time. Trojan catcher, Chris Ferrante, hit a three-run homer against Forsyth Country Day, which proved to be just enough to defeat the Furies. Ferrante along with teammates, David Anderson and Bennett Hixon, displayed excellent fieldwork that further solidified Wesleyan Christian's lead. This championship game required tremendous skill and athleticism, not to mention, great advice and wisdom from Head Coach Scott Davis and his coaching staff.

The championship team members included Donnie Caldwell, Casey Corn, Cameron Hendrix, Bennett Hixson, Nick Blackwood, Kyle Washam, David Anderson, Nathan Midkiff, Chris Ferrante, Vincent Banks, Greg Key, Cameron George, and Ethan Brown. The coaching was led by Scott Davis, and his able assistant John Pavlack.

Again, on behalf of the Sixth District of North Carolina, we would like to congratulate the Wesleyan Christian Academy baseball team, the faculty, staff, students, and fans for an outstanding season.

CONGRATULATING EL PRIMER PASO LTD.

HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor El Primer Paso Ltd., a preschool located in Dover, Morris County, New Jersey, which is celebrating its fortieth anniversary.

In 1969, a group of volunteers formed El Primer Paso with the intent of preparing children from the local Hispanic community for the public school education curriculum. Realizing the unparalleled importance of a solid edu-

cational foundation, these volunteers aimed to help local children of preschool age in valuable areas such as the English language and developmental growth.

The Trinity Lutheran Church of Dover loaned El Primer Paso meeting space for its first year, but in 1970 it moved to a house on Richards Avenue, owned by the Holy Rosary Church. Seven years later, the organization received a Comprehensive Employment and Training Act grant, its first government assistance. This grant allowed El Primer Paso to pay the salaries of two teachers, paving the way for the establishment of a formal program, complete with two half-day sessions, five days a week.

In 1980, El Primer Paso added adult language courses in response to numerous requests from parents of the preschoolers. These courses have since flourished into a thriving English as a Second Language Program, teaching local adults valuable communication skills for both work and social environments.

In 1984, El Primer Paso further expanded to include a preschool program for three year-olds. Four years later, the organization also began sponsorship of a Family Childcare Program, which provides training to those who desire to open Family Childcare homes. It also became a sponsor in the New Jersey Department of Agriculture's Family Child Care Food Program, ensuring that children receiving childcare from registered providers would receive nutritionally balanced meals and snacks at no cost to their parents.

Finally, in November 2000, after many years of borrowing space from the Holy Rosary Church, El Primer Paso opened the doors to its brand new facility at 29 Segur Street in Dover. Then, in 2009, the organization received accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children, a standard met by fewer than ten percent of preschools across the nation.

El Primer Paso continues to look toward tomorrow as it prepares to expand its facilities. As they have the most devoted staff and trustees, the future of their school, as well as their students, is sure to be bright.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in congratulating El Primer Paso Ltd., for its 40 years of admirable service to the community.

**A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE OHIO
ARMY NATIONAL GUARD'S
1483RD TRANSPORTATION COM-
PANY UPON ITS RETURN FROM
DEPLOYMENT**

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to a brave group of individuals from Ohio. The 1483rd Transportation Company is celebrating its return from service in the theater of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the broader conflict of America's Global War on Terror.

There is no question the Ohio National Guard is one of the fundamental military components of our country. Over its brief but ac-

tive course of service to our great nation, the Ohio Army National Guard's 1483rd Transportation Company has demonstrated its commitment to the cause of freedom. These soldiers have contributed to the long history of the U.S. Army Transportation Corps, dating back to 1942.

This Walbridge, Ohio-based Guard unit travelled over 325,000 miles, carrying with it almost 33,000 tons of equipment in support of America's efforts in Iraq. These soldiers conducted nearly 150 combat patrols, five vehicle recovery operations and a humanitarian mission where educational materials were shipped abroad. The 1483rd Transportation Company also moved over 400 Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles, nearly 150 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and M1 Abrams tanks, and also helped in the U.S. military drawdown initiative in Iraq.

The 1483rd Transportation Company is deserving of the greatest respect and our highest honor. These individuals have not only ably and faithfully served our great nation in the theater of war, but have selflessly supported humanitarian efforts in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Gustav. Surely, America's safety and wellbeing have been strengthened by its steadfast service.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Ohio Army National Guard's 1483rd Transportation Company. America is well served by dedicated service men and women who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect our beloved nation. On behalf of the people of the Fifth Congressional District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize these citizen soldiers upon their return from serving America's interests in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

REID JOHNSON AND PAL

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. REICHERT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of an enthusiastic public servant, someone who works tirelessly in our community, and who has a big heart for young people and a dedication to law enforcement. Reid Johnson, a King County Sheriff's Office Sergeant and the Executive Director of the Greater King County Police Activities League (GKCPAL), continues to make a remarkable difference in the lives of thousands of young people throughout King County.

Madam Speaker, the GKCPAL is not an extension of the King County Sheriff's office. It is a chapter of the nationwide PAL program; in other words, everyone working on behalf of the GKCPAL is a volunteer. No one, Madam Speaker, gives more time than Reid. His name is now synonymous with law enforcement and public service in King County. He spends time at schools, gymnasiums, and local hangouts—anywhere young people may need guidance and direction. Reid is doing so much to make our community a better place, Madam Speaker, and I thank him for his service.

The national PAL program is recognized by the Department of Justice as a juvenile delinquency reduction program. In King County, PAL gives young people a productive outlet

through mentoring, music, and a variety of other activities. Reid doesn't sit in an office and direct these programs. He is constantly in engaging individuals and families, and developing new and unique ways to make a difference. Madam Speaker, I urge every one of my colleagues to support their local PAL chapter—the programs available make a big difference in the lives of our young people, and to our overall public safety.

Reid's work with PAL is helped by his work overseeing the School Resource Officers with the King County Sheriff's Office. Reid is efficient and effective at what he does because everyone he encounters knows he means what he says. Reid is a dedicated servant. He's a special man and King County is a better place because of him.

Madam Speaker, I ask this House to join me in thanking Reid for his service and to wish him the very best as he continues to mentor and affect the lives of our promising young people.

FREEDOM FOR PEOPLE OF IRAN

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Saturday, June 12, 2009, the Iranian people went to the polls to vote in Iran's tenth presidential election. Today, almost exactly one year later, two things have become much clearer.

First, we have seen just how oppressive and authoritarian the Iranian regime is. When Iranian citizens took to the streets to dispute the results of the election, government officials responded with violence, murdering innocent people like Neda Soltan and assaulting others. Rather than apologizing for these atrocities, President Ahmadinejad dismissed the initial unrest as "not important" and accused foreign media of launching a "psychological war" against Iran. In the months following the election, government officials continued to arrest, torture, and imprison protesters and their family members.

Even now, the government's persecution of pro-democracy demonstrators continues. On May 9, five political prisoners, four of them Kurds, were hung. The following day, the Iranian court sentenced a Newsweek reporter, in absentia, to 13 years in prison. In addition, Amnesty International reported a few weeks ago that 6 more people were sentenced to death for their association with the banned Iranian opposition, or having visited the group's Camp Ashraf, in Iraq.

Second, we have seen just how much the Iranian people desire freedom from the current regime. Despite the threat of injury and even death, Iranian citizens continue to express their displeasure with the current government. In December, Iranian activists participated in demonstrations in Tehran and other cities across the country. When President Ahmadinejad visited Tehran University a month ago, student demonstrators protested.

In light of these events, I recently joined twelve of my colleagues in signing a bi-partisan letter to President Obama, encouraging him to support the Iranian dissidents' efforts and work with international partners to put pressure on Iran.

I am also a co-sponsor of H. Res 704 that has 224 bi-partisan co-sponsors and supports the rights of the Iranian dissident members in Camp Ashraf, Iraq. We must condemn attempts by the Iranian regime and the Al-Maliki Government to harm these Iranian political refugees.

Finally, I praise New Jersey Assemblyman John Bramnick and the teen advocacy program No Nukes for Iran for planning a rally in Trenton on June 10. This event is sponsored by numerous Jewish organizations who wish to raise awareness of the danger a nuclear Iran poses for the citizens of Iran, as well as Israel and the U.S. As a conferee on the Iran Sanctions Conference Committee, I will continue to support prompt, aggressive action to deter Iran's nuclear ambitions. I also praise New Jersey government officials and non-profit groups for divesting pension and annuity funds from companies that do business with Iran's petroleum sector.

I am honored to stand with the thousands of Iranians who have dared to voice their opposition to the current regime and the journalists who have had the courage to cover their actions.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CONCORDIA ORIOLES BASEBALL TEAM

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 8, 2010

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to inform you that on Thursday, June 3, the Concordia High School Orioles baseball team became the 2010 1-A Missouri State Champions. Under Head Coach Nathan Beissenherz and Assistant Coach Brandon Figg, the team finished the season with a 19–3 record. This is the first state championship for any sport in Concordia High School history.

After a 15–3 regular season record, the Orioles defeated Wellington (4–2) in the Class 1–A Sectional and then defeated Liberal (5–2) in Quarterfinal play. This earned the club a trip to the finals in Springfield, Missouri, which was hosted at Drury University's Meador Park. The Orioles then defeated St. Elizabeth (9–3) and played Brashear in the final game. The team played solid defense and took advantage of opportunities in the field and at the plate, which propelled the CHS Orioles baseball team over Brashear (6–1) to win the state championship.

Members of the Concordia Orioles baseball team include: Collin Werths, Drew Smith, Kent Schuette, Dustin Heineken, Alic Frerking, Blake Smith, Tyler Tolas, Blake Heimsoth, Travis Flandermeyer, Jesse Flandermeyer, Carter Brown, Hayden Brown, Jacob Summers, Jacob Harms, Cale Brunkhorst, Zach Wolski, J.R. Langkrah, Chris Latty, Josh Kock, assistant coach Brandon Figg and head coach Nathan Beissenherz.

Madam Speaker, the members of the Concordia High School Orioles baseball team have distinguished themselves as the 2010 Class 1–A Missouri High School Baseball State Champions as well as the first state champions in Concordia High School history. I am sure that my colleagues will join me in wishing Coach Beiz and his team all the best.

HONORING WORKERS WHO PERISHED IN DEEPWATER HORIZON ACCIDENT

SPEECH OF

HON. LAURA RICHARDSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1347, which honors the lives of the 11 workers who were tragically killed in the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon offshore oil platform off the coast of Louisiana. It also commends the rescue workers who courageously responded to the explosion. They showed tremendous strength by risking their lives to save those of others.

I thank Chairman TOWNS for his leadership in bringing this bill to the floor. I also thank the sponsor of this legislation, Congressman MELANCON, for honoring the individuals who lost their lives in the explosion. In addition, I would like to commend the Congressman for his commitment to serving the people of South Louisiana and promoting the interests of the Gulf Coast region throughout the many challenges it faces. Congressman MELANCON is a champion of South Louisiana's hard-working people, ecologically unique coastal environment, and nationally cherished culture.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of the 11 individuals who passed away in the explosion. I know that they will be missed by their neighbors, friends, and coworkers, but most of all by their families, who will mourn their loss more than we can imagine. The men who passed away on April 20, 2010, were loving husbands, sons, and brothers. We must offer our support and care to their families in this time of need.

Hopefully, this tragic event can serve as a poignant reminder of the need for strong regulations and workplace protections in the offshore oil and gas industry. Measures must be put in place to ensure that a disaster of this kind never happens again. Offshore oil and gas exploration is a line of work that inevitably carries personal safety risks. However, with frequent safety checks, more stringent regulations, and the implementation of the most modern technologies, we can mitigate these risks and promote the safety and wellbeing of all workers in the industry.

In addition to the tragic human cost of the explosion, the resulting oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico continues to pollute and degrade the vital ecosystems in the Gulf and the surrounding coastal regions. We are only beginning to feel the massive environmental toll of the spill, which is likely to devastate an environment that is the backbone of the South Louisiana economy and on which thousands of individuals depend for their livelihood. We must stand in solidarity with the people of the Gulf Coast region. We must work to limit the impact of the spill, clean up the damage that has already been done, and hold the responsible parties accountable. The coastal environment and culture of south Louisiana are national treasures. We must work day and night to ensure that the damage endured is not irreparable.

Again, I extend my deepest condolences to the family of the individuals who were tragically killed in the explosion. The thoughts of our Nation are with them as they grieve the